

Cooperation with Agencies that Are Not in the Statewide Workforce Investment System and with Other Entities

Transition Project for SBVI Consumers

SBVI has a cooperative agreement in place with the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired for provision of transition services to students who are blind on a statewide basis. This agreement supports a transition specialist who is trained in the skills of blindness. The purpose of the position is to educate blind or visually impaired students and their parents, as well as to work with SBVI rehabilitation counselors in the delivery of transition services. SBVI participates to the extent possible in IEP meetings and facilitates on-going communication between SDSBVI personnel, parents, and local school districts regarding the consumers' needs. SBVI is committed to providing the career exploration and work experiences to consumers to assist them in making informed choices about their services and employment goals. SBVI and the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired coordinate summer programming for students, and the transition specialist from the school provides ongoing support to joint consumers and their families.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Transportation: Vending Machines at Rest Areas

This Memorandum of Understanding was entered into by SBVI and the Department of Transportation in order to define the responsibility of the respective departments for vending machines in rest areas located on interstate highway systems as defined in South Dakota Codified Law. A state law authorizes the placement of vending machines in rest areas located on interstate highway systems for the benefit of visually impaired vendors licensed by the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. SBVI awards contracts to vending companies for installation and operation of vending machine facilities in all operating rest areas. Revenues from highway vending support the division's Business Enterprise Program.

Memorandum of Understanding: Migrant Seasonal Worker Program and Training

The migrant and seasonal farm worker education, employment, and training memorandum of understanding between the Department of Human Services and the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative was developed to address coordination of services. This memorandum outlines the referral process between the two agencies and the coordination of services

that takes place, and is designed to promote the efficient delivery of services to this special population.

Formal Agreement for Access to the Unsanitized Job Service Listings

In January of 1997, a Cooperative Agreement was developed between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL). The purpose of this agreement was to develop arrangements for staff from the Department of Human Services to have access to the Job Service Listings in DOL's computer system. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors benefit from having access to this information in assisting consumers to obtain employment. Having access to this system helps identify employment openings close to the consumer's home and employers who have historically been more open to hiring individuals with disabilities.

Formal Agreement for Information Follow-up Project

SBVI participates in the Information Follow-up Project that combines electronic data from the Department of Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, Technical Institutes, Board of Regents, Public Universities, Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Commerce and Regulations. This project provides information on the number of consumers involved with other agencies. This program is also able to provide a summary report on individuals who were rehabilitated in previous years by the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Memorandum of Understanding with Statewide Workforce Investment

The South Dakota Department of Labor and the Career Center Partner Agencies including SBVI support activities to improve the employment, education, training, and related supportive services to the citizens of the State of South Dakota. This MOU facilitates coordination among the Career Center partners in providing comprehensive services that are designed to assist unemployed individuals in finding employment that is consistent with their interests and abilities. In many communities, the vocational rehabilitation counselors are co-located with the Department of Labor Career Centers. In offices where agencies are co-located, our agencies share computer systems, office machines, and equipment. Collaboration of services between agencies is continually occurring at all office locations.

Participation in Councils

The State of South Dakota has selected the option to continue with the current Workforce Development Council composition. The option to continue with the current composition is allowed in the WIA for councils that were in place on December 31st, 1997. The Workforce Development Council currently has a member from the Department of Human Services and Vocational Rehabilitation. The State Rehabilitation Council for SBVI reserves a position on their council for a representative from the Workforce Development Council.

Project Skills

SBVI offers the Project Skills program as an option to provide work experiences to transition-age consumers. The Project Skills program is a cooperative arrangement between the state vocational rehabilitation agencies and the local school districts that provides paid work experiences to high school students with disabilities in South Dakota. Project Skills provides students the opportunity to learn different skills in a variety of job placements with the assistance of a job coach. This program will help to build the student's work history, references and help them move into different and better jobs as they mature and are ready to take on new challenges.

State Use Law

The State of South Dakota has a "State Use Law" as described in South Dakota Codified Law §5-20-4. The Department of Human Services has prepared a list of products and custodial/maintenance services offered by qualified agencies. The Department updates this list and furnishes a copy to the Bureau of Administration.

Programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture

SBVI does not have formal agreements with the programs that are carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture.